

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JAKART 01056 250632Z

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-06 INR-06 SP-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00

PM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 ORM-01 DHA-02 TRSE-00 L-01

ACDA-10 DLOS-02 SAL-01 /060 W

-----250636Z 032734 /20/12

R 240820Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8887

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 1056

LIMDIS

NOFORN

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y TEXT ADD NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PNG, ID

SUBJECT: PM SOMARE'S PRIVATE REMARKS ON MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SUHART

O

REF: (A) JAKARTA 0769, (B) JAKARTA 0664

1. AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR WOOLCOTT MET WITH PNG PRIME MINISTER SOMARE IN JAKARTA AT LATTER'S REQUEST AND SUBSEQUENTLY PASSED ON TO ME FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF SOMARE'S OBSERVATIONS:

2. PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS OF SUHARTO: SOMARE WAS IMPRESSED BY SUHARTO'S CONFIDENCE, HIS GRIP OF REGIONAL AFFAIRS, HIS EMPHASIS ON NEED FOR DEVELOPMENT AND HIS CONCERN FOR POORER PEOPLE OF INDONESIA. SOMARE ALSO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR SUHARTO'S "FRANKNESS" DURING SERIES OF MEETINGS HELD WITH LATTER. BEFORE LEAVING PORT MORESBY, SOMARE SAID HE HAD BEEN CONCERNED THAT INDONESIA MIGHT TRY "TO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 JAKART 01056 250632Z

LEAN ON HIM" OVER WEST IRIANESE PERMISSIVE RESIDENTS AND ON TIMOR. IN FACT, SOMARE SAID, NETHER SUHARTO NOR MALIK PRESSURED HIM OR HIS DELEGATION ON THESE ISSUES, THOUGH BOTH HAD BEEN DISCUSSED.

3. BORDER AND OPM: SOMARE SAID HE PLEASED TO FIND THAT INDONESIANS WISHED TO BROADEN RELATIONS WITH PNG BEYOND ISSUES

RELATED TO OPM AND BORDER. HE NOTED THAT INDONESIANS WERE PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN PNG ASSURANCES THAT LATTER'S TERRITORY WOULD NOT BE USED FOR CONDUCT OF ACTIVITIES AGAINST INDONESIA, WHICH IN ANY CASE ALREADY COVERED BY PRESENT BORDER AGREEMENT. SOMARE ALSO STATED THAT, FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS, HE UNWILLING TO FORCE WEST IRIANESE REFUGEES AND PERMISSIVE RESIDENTS BACK TO IRAN JAYA, UNLESS THEY CLEARLY VIOLATED PNG LAW OR RULES OF PERMISSIVE RESIDENCE.

4. TIMOR: ACCORDING TO SOMARE, SUHARTO OUTLINED BACKGROUND TO INCORPORATION OF EAST TIMOR AND SPECIFICALLY SOUGHT CLEAR STATEMENT OF PNG "RECONGITION OF INCORPORATION" BUT DID NOT PRESS FOR IT AFTER LISTENING TO SOMARE'S POSITION. SOMARE OUTLINED PNG POLICY OF "NON-INVOLVEMENT" AND TOLD SUHARTO THAT PNG WOULD HAVE PREFERRED MORE UNITED NATIONS INVOLVEMENT IN THE DECOLONIZATION PROCESS. SOMARE ALSO TOLD SUHARTO THAT, IN VIEW OF IMPENDING GENERAL ELECTIONS, HE COULD NOT PUBLICLY SUPPORT INCORPORATION. PRIVATELY, HOWEVER, SOMARE ASSURED SUHARTO THAT HE QUOTE UNDERSTOOD THE REASONS FOR INDONESIA'S ACTION END QUOTE. SOMARE SAID THAT HE ACCEPTED INCORPORATION AS "FAIT ACCOMPLI" (BUT WOOLCOTT UNCERTAIN WHETHER SOMARE MADE THIS POINT TO SUHARTO). SOMARE ALSO AGREED TO REFER TO TIMOR IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE AS "INDONESIA'S INTERNAL AFFAIR," WHICH HE DID.

5. SUHARTO REPORTEDLY SOUGHT TO REASSURE SOMARE THAT INDONESIA WAS NOT EXPANSIONIST AND THAT TIMOR ACTION WAS UNIQUE. SOMARE SAID THAT SUHARTO REFERRED TO INDONESIAN SUPPORT FOR AND ENDORSEMENT OF PNG'S SOVEREIGNTY AS AN INDEPENDENT STATE. EAST TIMOR, HOWEVER, HAD BEEN COLONIAL ANACHRONISM. SUHARTO TOLD SOMARE THAT,

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 JAKART 01056 250632Z

UNLIKE PNG WHICH IS ECONOMICALLY VIABLE, RECEIVES CONSIDERABLE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FROM AUSTRALIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES LIKE JAPAN, AND IS AT ONE EXTREMITY OF INDONESIAN ARCHIPELAGO LIKE EASTERN MALAYSIA, EAST TIMOR IS NOT ECONOMICALLY VIABLE, HAD BEEN ABANDONED BY PORTUGAL AND IS GEOGRAPHICALLY WITHIN ARCHIPELAGO.

6. CHINA: SOMARE HAD NOTHING TO ADD TO PRESS REPORTS OF MALIK'S COMMENTS THAT SOMARE HAD PASSED MESSAGE TO SUHARTO FROM CHINESE GOVERNMENT STATING THAT CHINA WISHED TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH INDONESIA. SOMARE SAID HE SIMPLY PASSED IT ON "ORALLY AND AS A COURTESY." SUHARTO HAD REPLIED ALONG ESTABLISHED INDONESIAN LINES THAT INDONESIA HAD NO OBJECTION IN PRINCIPLE, BUT THAT IT WAS A MATTER OF TIMING AND WOULD BE EXAMINED AGAIN AFTER GENERAL ELECTIONS IN MAY.

7. ASEAN: SOMARE SAID THAT BOTH HE AND SUHARTO HAD AGREED THAT COMMUNICATION SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM AND ASEAN, BUT THAT PNG SHOULD NOT SEEK TO JOIN ASEAN AT THIS

TIME. PNG FAVORED DEVELOPING LINKS THAT WOULD KEEP THE DOOR OPEN TO POSSIBLE FUTURE MEMBERSHIP.

8. LOS AND TORRES STRAIT: SOMARE SAID THAT HE AND SUHARTO HAD AGREED TO CONSULT AND COOPERATE ON LOS MATTERS, AND CONFIRMED THAT HE HAD EXPRESSED FULL SUPPORT FOR ARCHIPELAGIC PRINCIPLE. NO DISCUSSIONS ON TORRES STRAIT TOOK PLACE BEYOND SOMARE'S EXPLANATION OF PNG'S POSITION, DURING MEETING WITH MALIK.

9. PNG GENERAL ELECTIONS: SOMARE SAID HE BELIEVED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD WIN THE ELECTIONS, ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT BE QUITE CLOSE. HE IMPLICITLY CONCEDED THE POSSIBILITY THAT OPPOSITION POLITICIANS MIGHT EXPLOIT HIS STATEMENT THAT TIMOR WAS "INDONESIA'S INTERNAL AFFAIR," BUT HOPED THAT THEY WOULD BE SENSIBLE ENOUGH TO SEE THAT THERE WAS NO POLITICAL MILEAGE TO BE GAINED BY ADOPTING FOOLHARDY ATTITUDE OF HOSTILITY TOWARDS INDONESIA WITHOUT GOOD CAUSE.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 JAKART 01056 250632Z

NEWSOM

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETING REPORTS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977JAKART01056
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770044-0760, D770024-1183
Format: TEL
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770125/aaaaavvr.tel
Line Count: 140
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 91242bd2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS, NOFORN
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS, NOFORN
Reference: 77 JAKARTA 769, 77 JAKARTA 664
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3523898
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PM SOMARE'S PRIVATE REMARKS ON MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO
TAGS: PFOR, PP, ID, (SOMARE, MICHAEL T), (SUHARTO, GEN), (SOMARE, MICHAEL THOMAS), (SUHARTO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/91242bd2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009